The Book Of Exodus

Passover

Session Six
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First Assembly of God
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Egypt’s Pharaoh adamantly refused Moses’ demand to turn the Jewish slaves free. Over and over the rejections came. And over and over came God’s anger on the monarch and his people. There would be ten of those plagues; we studied seven of them last week:

1. Blood
2. Frogs
3. Lice (gnats)
4. Flies
5. Murrain (animal disease)
6. Boils
7. Hail

Tonight we cover the final three:

8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. The Death Angel (and the institution of Passover)

**LOCUSTS**

Exodus 10:3-15

And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me. [4] Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: [5] And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which growth for you out of the field: [6] And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh. [7] And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed? [8] And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the Lord your God: but who are they that shall go? [9] And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for
we must hold a feast unto the Lord. [10] And he said unto them, Let the Lord be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you. [11] Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

[12] And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left. [13] And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. [14] And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. [15] For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Plagues of locusts were greatly feared in much of the world. In other occasions in the Old Testament these insects invaded, causing havoc. Nothing in those days could seemingly stop them. These diminutive enemies traveled in clouds of millions, making their way across the victimized country-sides in bizarre movements, first crawling and then leaping. Anything that lay in their pathway was devoured. Fields of wheat and barley, vineyards, mulberry orchards, groves of olive, fig and other trees were shortly stripped of every green blade and leaf, the very bark often being consumed.

In Joel’s day, later, it had been faithfully documented that an infant, left asleep in its cradle under some shady trees in Tekoah (near Bethlehem), was found later partly devoured by the locusts. Small wonder the Romans later called them, “the burners of the land,” which is the literal meaning of the word “locust.”

Nothing could stop them. At night they would pause on the vegetation until the morning sun revived them. Then they would devour their sleeping place and continue their devastating march. When a wall or building was in their pathway, they climbed straight up, going over the top to the other side. If there were open doors or windows, the locusts found the openings and caused major destruction inside. When they came to water, they never tried to avert it, but leaped in and drowned. Soon enough of the dead locusts formed a bridge of sorts over the water and the remaining insects continued on.

Only major winds could stop the ravaging. When Pharaoh called for Moses and asked for relief, (Exodus 10:19), “The Lord changed the wind. He made a very strong wind blow from the west, and it blew the locusts away into the Red Sea.” (New Century Version) But....once again, Pharaoh hardened his heart and the Jews were left in their state of slavery.
DARKNESS

I have always loved caves. In one of the largest ones in this hemisphere (Marvel Cave), we were hundreds of feet below the surface. The guide said, “Now stand close together and do not move!” He turned a switch and all the lights in that cavern went out instantly. We stood in the “darkest dark” I have ever known. The cave was known for its millions of bats, and although they never touched anyone, it felt as if they were all over us. Finally one of our group cried out, “Please - turn on the lights!” We all felt immense relief when the guide did so.

Here is what happened with Moses and the Pharaoh:

Exodus 10:21-29

And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. [22] And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: [23] They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

[24] And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. [25] And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. [26] Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither.

[27] But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. [28] And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. [29] And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.

This would be the last straw! An old song declares:

There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost;
And you hurry along with the pleasure-made throng;
Have you counted? Have you counted the cost?
Have you counted the cost if your soul should be lost,
Though you gain the whole world for your own?
Even now it may be that the line you have crossed,
Have you counted? Have you counted the cost?

This refusal by Pharaoh would be the death knell for multitudes of Egyptians. The first-
born in every family would die as God sent a death angel over the Nile. For the Jews, it meant deliverance and the establishment of PASSOVER.

Passover 2017

This year, millions of Jews all over the world celebrated Passover (Pesach) from sunset Monday, April 10 to sundown Tuesday, April 18. The primary observances of Passover are related to the Exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery as told in the Biblical book of Exodus, the first 15 chapters. Here is the story:

Exodus 11:1-10

And the Lord said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. [2] Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. [3] And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants, and in the sight of the people. [4] And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: [5] And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. [6] And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. [7] But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. [8] And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger. [9] And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. [10] And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

When Jewish people celebrate their annual Passover feast, the book of Exodus is read and the history of the Night of the Death Angel is recounted. Much of the ceremony is based on the Biblical commandment, Thou shalt tell thy son....

A number of questions are always asked including:
  - WHY is this night different?
  - Why do we eat such unusual foods as matzoh, etc.?
Why do we open doors?
And other questions that refer back to the original night of Passover.

God had given Pharaoh every opportunity to release His people from bondage. His
demand was refused and now “the piper would have to be paid.” It was an awful price,
to be sure. God had been very forgiving and patient. But “the sand in the hour glass
had run out.” Now Egypt and Pharaoh would learn about the wrath of God. That
“wrath” is a well-kept secret in most pulpits today; however, it is a true and vital part of
the nature of God. Yes, of course, God is love! But He will be obeyed - or the cost is
terrible.

In the passage found on line 2 on the previous page, God told the Jews to “borrow” from
the Egyptians. The phrase actually means “to collect on back wages.” When the Jews
finally left Egypt, they didn’t have many “possessions” to carry with them; but they did
have a fortune in money. God gave the Israelites favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, who
were glad to see them go, and they gladly (I think) gave the Jews their just payment.

Now God Himself will claim the first fruits of the futile Egyptian “gods.” Note
carefully line 25 of the previous page, text ch 11:7: God shows in no small way that
there was a difference in the people of Egypt in that day and the Jews. What was the
difference? Not race. No - it was THE BLOOD OF A LAMB! Just as it remains to
this very day.

THE PASSOVER PROVISION AGAINST THE DEATH ANGEL

Exodus 12:1-14

And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, [2] This
month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the
year to you.

[3] Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this
month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their
fathers, a lamb for an house: [4] And if the household be too little for the lamb, let
him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the
souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. [5]
Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from
the sheep, or from the goats: [6] And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of
the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in
the evening. [7] And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts
and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. [8] And they
shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with
bitter herbs they shall eat it. [9] Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. [10] And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. [11] And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover. [12] For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. [13] And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. [14] And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

THE LAMB

Not just “any” lamb, but a perfect one. When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the public at the Jordan River, he spoke of God’s Lamb, Who, of course, was perfect: John 1:29-34 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. [30] This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. [31] And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. [32] And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. [33] And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. [34] And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Paul referred to this as well: 1 Cor. 5:7 For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

The Israelites killed the lambs (must have been thousands of them that historic night) and were to take the blood and daub it on the two sideposts and the board over the door as well.

Inside the house of each Jew, the family sat eating the lamb. The young children do not know what is happening - or at least would not fully understand it. Will they be left behind when Israel goes out from the land? No! If a little one has not yet reached the
age of accountability, will he be slain by the angel? No! The blood covered everyone in that family. At the time of the glorious Rapture when the saints meet the Lord in the air, He will not leave small children behind. Thank the Lord for this major truth!

One of the most powerful passages in all Scripture is Exodus 12:11-13 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover. [12] For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. [13] And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and [when I see the blood, I will pass over you], and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Who was saved that night? Only those covered by the blood. As already noted, Jesus is our Passover Lamb. When God's wrath is poured out in the last days, and in the judgments we face before Him, if we are covered BY THE BLOOD OF HIS SON JESUS His wrath will PASSOVER US.

How are we so covered?

1. When we grieve over our sinful nature and acts.
2. When we acknowledge this to God. This is REPENTANCE.
3. When we turn our lives over to Him, lock, stock and barrel.

UNLEAVENED BREAD

Exodus 12:17-20

And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

[18] In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. [19] Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. [20] Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.

Unleavened bread is any of a wide variety of breads which are not prepared with raising agents. They are generally flat breads; however, not all flat breads are unleavened. Unleavened breads have symbolic importance in Judaism and Christianity. Jews consume unleavened breads such as matzo during Passover. In some Western Christian
liturgies such as communion unleavened bread may be used. There was no “fooling
around” with this to the Israelites leaving Egypt. If they ate regular leavened bread they
were left out of the deliverance. Leaven is a principle or type of evil.

THE TENTH PLAGUE - THE DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN

Exodus 12:29-30

And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land
of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of
the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. [30] And Pharaoh
rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a
great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

That 30th verse is chilling: "...a great cry in Egypt..." Can you even imagine it? From
the palace to the most impoverished home in the land, there were dead bodies. And it
was finally - it seems - the last straw for the Pharaoh and his subjects:

Exodus 12:31-37

And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth
from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as
ye have said. [32] Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone;
and bless me also. [33] And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they
might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. [34]
And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading-troughs being
bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. [35] And the children of Israel did
according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver,
and jewels of gold, and raiment: [36] And the Lord gave the people favour in the
sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And
they spoiled the Egyptians.

[37] And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six
hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

Estimates of the Jews leaving Egypt vary greatly. Suffice it to say that it was HUGE!
Note one problem:

Exodus 12:38  And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and
herds, even very much cattle.

There apparently were quite a few disgruntled people in Egypt who wanted out of that
country! They mixed in with the Israelites and followed Moses’ lead out. Later on in
Scripture we will see that they were the cause of trouble. The Book of Numbers is more specific to that subject. When trouble came, or hardship, or inconvenience, they were among the first to lambaste Moses.

This journey from Egypt to Israel, the Promised Land, should not have been a lengthy one. I have driven across the Sinai (of course, I was in an air conditioned bus!!) in just a few hours. The Israelites took a bit longer.....

Exodus 12:40-42  [40] Now the sojourn of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. [41] And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. [42] It is a night to be much observed unto the Lord for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the Lord to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

Why so many years? Lack of faith! Of the many males who left, Joshua and Caleb were among the very, very few who actually arrived in the Promised Land. Not even Moses made it.

The Journey.....next week!